



## The Beacon

Bethania Lutheran Church  
1-805-688-4637  
[www.bethanialutheran.net](http://www.bethanialutheran.net)

July 2021

621 Atterdag Rd, Solvang CA 93463  
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### Pastor Chris's Message

Two things have hit me this week in a visceral way: The first is that we aren't going back to the way things were before the pandemic—and there are feelings attached to that, which I'm still processing. However, the second thing that hit me viscerally is that whatever the new normal becomes, it's not the end of the world.

I can still place myself in that mental space of March 2020 when we first shut down and thinking this is going to be a few weeks, we'll be worshipping together for Easter, and then we'll move past this. I remember at that time that getting back to the way things were seemed not only plausible, but likely. That gave way over the next few months to simply wondering what we're coming back to. Now that we are in the process of reopening, both publicly and at Bethania, it's setting in that we're coming back to a different world. But different isn't necessarily bad.

It's hard for me to not think in terms of Bethania and our church life because this is my career, but I imagine for all of you this reality might bear meaning in many other facets of your life, whether it's your own personal career fields, relationships, routines, etc. I can't speak for anyone but myself, and thus cannot say authoritatively that because it's a new world it's going to be okay for everyone. I know there's a lot of pain and struggle as we come out of this time. I feel a lot of that myself in many ways and I'm trying to navigate it as best I can.

I guess what I'm saying is that there's some comfort in acknowledging that we're not going back to the way things were, that there will be a new normal and just like with this pandemic, we'll adapt. I think I knew this intellectually—I think I've even written a Beacon article about acknowledging this, but it hit me viscerally this last week at our first Unorthodox Gathering and talking, as a community, about how different we are, our expectations are, and how different the world seems. And you know, sitting there with a community of people made it feel like this visceral revelation isn't the end of the world, and that somehow felt like a positive thing.

Mulling in my head this week has been Jesus' final words in the Gospel of Matthew, "And remember, I will be with you always, to the end of the age." That's what I feel as I've gathered with you all in worship at our 9:30 service and at Unorthodox. I think because physically gathering had been missing for so long, that gathering now, even though it's a different world, just feels like Jesus is with me, and right now, that just feels like a positive thing.

Yours in Christ,

**Rev. Chris Brown**



## **We're Back Indoors!**

Worship has resumed back inside the sanctuary and we want to welcome everyone to rejoin us. Because of the vaccination rate in our area, and especially within our church membership, masks are optional. We recommend that anyone who has not been fully vaccinated to continue to wear masks, however, it will not be mandated. We are also asking that if anyone is not feeling well to please refrain from coming to in-person worship until 24 hours without symptoms. We will always continue to offer worship through the live-stream for those who wish to continue worshipping from home.

The Sunday Worship Service is at 9:30 AM and the Unorthodox Gathering meets at 11 AM - both in the sanctuary.

To join the live-stream service, a little before 9:30 am on Sunday Morning, go to YouTube and type in Bethania Lutheran Church. If you subscribe to "Bethania Lutheran Church" it will be easy. We include a link to the bulletin. We also send out an email with the link and the bulletin as well.

## **Youth and Family Ministry**

### **Summer Greetings,**

Childcare and Bible lessons are provided outdoors until we are allowed to share the indoor preschool classrooms. Sunday School curriculum will return in the fall.

Next trips are Space VR and Escape Room. The Rummage Sale, Youth Bake Sale, etc. are being planned for this fall and winter.

Vacation Bible School will be **July 26-30, 2021**. Due to the pandemic, we will not provide a meal and have restricted the ages from Kinder-5th grade. THANK YOU to all the volunteers who donated items and/or their time to make this a special week for many children!

To register, please visit <https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/bethania/>

Sending love,  
**Livier Ghamari-Brown**  
**Director of Youth & Family Ministry**  
[livierghamari@yahoo.com](mailto:livierghamari@yahoo.com)  
**(909) 962-9366**



# Bethania Preschool and After School Summer Program

Bethania Preschool and After School is having a busy summer. Full of art, games, activities, and fun! Each class is still having to remain in “pods”, but we are managing. We are hoping to hear soon from our licensing agency regarding the lifting of COVID regulations, but so far nothing. It has been a difficult stretch, with A LOT of new rules in place, but the staff has truly done an amazing job. The most important thing is that the children are happy.

Each class room is celebrating the Fourth of July with a party including games and food and excitement. We will enjoy hot dogs, watermelon, water balloons, relay races, and so much more. This is always an exciting day for the children.

Because we cannot take any field trips this summer, we will be creating amazing on site “excursions” for the children including under water classrooms and camping trips. We are letting our imaginations take over!

*“You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.” Erma Bombeck*

**Eileen**

## Faith in Action

### **Readers Wanted**

Would you read the lessons during the worship service on Sunday morning at 9:30 am? We need a few more people who would read once in a while. I can add you to my email list or I can call you. When I need readers, I send out a group email, usually at the beginning of the month. You can pick a Sunday and then I will send you the readings before your Sunday.

August Dates:

Aug. 1	_____
Aug. 8	_____
Aug. 15	Stewart Fries
Aug. 22	_____
Aug. 29	_____

**Please let me know.**

**Kristyl**

**805-688-4637**

**[bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com)**

## **The Produce Table Will be Open This Summer**

The Produce Table opened June 6 and will be open each Sunday after the 9:30 worship service or come early before the 11 AM Unorthodox Gathering. And, in order to do so, we need volunteers to “run” it.

Each person who takes a Sunday will get the materials from the closet in the Parish Hall and bring everything to the front of the church. Bethania's gardeners and friends in the community will bring their produce, vegetable starts, plants and flowers to the table. After worship Bethania's "Greengrocer" will help people bag their produce and receive their donations. When everyone has been helped, the "Greengrocer" will count the Produce Table money and give it to the Pastor Chris to put in the Church Office. Proceeds benefit the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Bethania's Food Pantry.

Please email Kristyl at [bethanialutheranch@gmail.com](mailto:bethanialutheranch@gmail.com) or call 805-688-4637 to select a date to run the Produce Table.

July 4, 2021	Brenda Knudsen
July 11, 2021	Ron & Kathy Walsh
July 18, 2021	_____
July 25, 2021	_____

We are grateful for the rhubarb, zinnias, boysenberries, zucchini bread and more.

Thank you to everyone for your support!

**Kristyl Downey**

## **Brown Bag Senior Breakfast Packing: July 11th**

Our fifth 2021 socially distanced Brown Bag Breakfast packing day is now scheduled for July 11th. We will be packing in the courtyard area around 10:45.

The bags we make up are intended to provide items for local seniors to eat while taking medications. Usually our bags are used for breakfast meds and to guarantee a morning meal, afternoon snack or sometimes a late evening or midnight snack as one of the recipients let us know. Our breakfast bags are delivered three times a week.

The church is open daily (usually from 9-5) and you can drop off any donated items you would like inside or at the church office, in addition to bringing items to us on packing day. You can also make a donation and earmark it "Brown Bag Breakfasts" so we can go do the shopping. Any and all help is much appreciated.

- Protein Drinks (such as Ensure or Atkins)
- Soft Granola/Cereal Bars
- Protein Bars
- Oatmeal Packets (Protein type)
- Instant Cup of Soup/Lunch or Noodles
- Fruit Cups or Applesauce
- Pudding (non-refrigerated)
- Small Juice Boxes or Plastic Bottles of Fruit Juices (such as Apple, Cranberry, Orange)

Every item you donate, every dollar you contribute, goes directly to helping a local senior.

**–Linda Marzullo**  
**Chairman, Social Ministry Committee**  
**688-5219, 688-3059 or [vikingspressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingspressprint@verizon.net)**

## Food Distribution Continues

For the month of July, Food Distribution continues through the month until the last week. **Food Distribution will NOT BE HELD on July 27<sup>th</sup> (the last Tuesday of the month).** The Food Distribution will resume on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please be aware that during this week we may need additional donations at the Blessing Box to help out those who rely on our assistance.

Our June numbers showed that we are currently serving over 600 unique households.

Bethania's Emergency USDA Food Distribution site is usually every Tuesday from 5:15-6:45 pm. Distribution is through drive up or walk up line. There are no restrictions on income or family size at press time. We serve people from all walks of life, and in all types of circumstances.

**We can always use donations of protein items (canned chicken, tuna, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter) and staples such as canned vegetables, pasta and sauce, jelly, honey, cereal, soup and chili.** Donations can be left in the church, at the church office or you can contact me to drop off items. **We also distribute diapers and wipes, along with incontinence and feminine hygiene items.** Donations of any of these products are greatly appreciated.

If you would like to help, please contact me. We appreciate and value every volunteer who assists us with this monumental task and cannot thank them enough. We need people to set up and pack some of the items in the morning at 10:30 and then another crew to help pack the bags and sort produce after 1:45. Unloading/moving helpers can come at 9:30 or 1:30. The evening distribution needs people who can lift heavy items and put things into cars, so if you are able to help, we would love to have you.

We continue to need your prayers and support for this mission, which is making a difference in so many lives here in our area.

**–Linda Marzullo**  
**Chairman, Social Ministry Committee**  
**688-5219 (Work), 688-3059 (Home) or [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)**

## Noisy Sunday - July 25: Items for Kits

The next "Noisy Sunday" is coming on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Our "joyful noise" will be helping to send a child to school. In many countries, the family must provide all the items needed to attend school: paper, ruler, pencils, pens, etc.

It is incredible to think about how we can change someone's life by providing pens, pencils and paper. Or how we can help someone keep healthy by providing a bar of soap and a towel. These are small things that add up to a much larger picture. When we collect the items for completing our Day of Service kits, each kit we complete helps someone who is struggling with their daily challenges.

We have started collecting the items below, and will purchase more items from any "Noisy Sunday" or designated donations we receive. If you would like to donate items, you may purchase them and drop them in the narthex, deliver to church office, or contact Linda Marzullo for pick up (805-688-5219, [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)).

The completed kits will be distributed globally by Lutheran World Relief to areas most in need. This also includes areas of the U.S. (We will be packing them on our Day of Service Event, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more info.)

*Items needed are:*

### **For Personal Care Kits:**

1. Bath size towels (light to medium weight, between 20"x40" & 27"x52"), dark colors preferred
2. Bars of soap (4-5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping – 2 per kit)
3. Toothbrush (adult size, in original packaging – bulk buys can be repackaged by us)
4. Comb, sturdy wide toothed
5. Nail clippers (with or without nail files)

### **For School Supply Kits:**

1. 70 sheet College ruled Notebooks (spiral bound)
2. Rulers with centimeters and inches
3. Pencil sharpeners
4. Blunt tip scissors
5. #2 Pencils
6. Ballpoint (not gel) Pens, Black or Blue ink
7. 2-1/2" Erasers
8. Box of Crayons (16 or 24 count)

"Make change for the better" on Noisy Sunday! Send in your donated items, check, coins or cash and make a joyful noise as we work together. Because together, we can CHANGE our world!

**– Linda Marzullo, Chair**

If you have any questions, contact the church office or Linda Marzullo at work: 688-5219 or via email: [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)

## **Blessing Box**

Items needed for the Blessing Box include canned and dried foods, snacks, cereal, coffee, condiments, shelf stable milk, protein items, cleaning supplies (such as dish soap, laundry soap, toilet bowl cleaners), cooking oil, personal care items, meal kits, mac & cheese...you get the idea.

**We will probably need additional donations the last week of July, since Food Distribution will not happen. Please consider dropping off your donations then to help us keep the box filled!**

THANK YOU to all who have contributed items, donated, and helped to keep this project going. Our goal with the Blessing Box was to have anyone in the community be able to access assistance at any time, without any stigma, from the items within it. Special thanks to Elizabeth Breen, Donna Hinsbeeck, Carolyn Schuit and Rick Marzullo, Jan Zigler and many others who are all assisting in keeping our "mighty pantry on a post" filled for people who need it.

If you are interested in helping to keep the box stocked, just drop off your items in the box itself or at the church office. You can also contact us for a day/time to sign up to help check the box – or just make a point of stopping by at a time good for you to see that it is filled. Thank you to all who already do this!

**- Linda Marzullo**



## Your Donations at work: Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz



Thanks to Bridget Cassara who has been a regular delivery-woman for donated items that need to go to Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz. We have been sending items up to them on a more regular basis recently and her willingness to be our delivery truck has been great.

Many more donations are needed to help out all of these hard-working families who struggle against so many odds. Pastor Esteban and his wife Angie are out doing the work for all of us who

are not able to go to the fields and meet these people where they live. Weekly they are making sandwiches and going out to the field workers to have prayer time and lift them up with food and scripture (see photos).



*From their newsletter this past month:*

Our adventure started with shopping for the ingredients we needed for our Tortas (Sandwiches). This month we had 80 tortas to make and deliver by 11 A.M. We had more than enough time to make our tortas, so there wasn't a reason to rush. When we finished, we packed everything we needed and left for our worksite...Finally, the foremen called everyone for lunch, and everyone started to approach our area. Pastor Esteban and Valerie (Malangko) began with a prayer and continued to pass out lunch and drinks. The people who were working at this site were timid, and little by little came to get their lunch and sat wherever they could to eat and hear the message that Pastor Esteban had to share with them. Many thanked us as they walked by, and one person had a question for Pastor Esteban. The man's question was a question that we are asked often, and it is "Why do you do this?" Pastor Esteban's Answer was simple: "God sent us to share his word and also share a bit of what he gives us." The expression on the man's face was priceless. He thanked Pastor Esteban and joined us in our last payer. When we finished our visit, we said our goodbyes and went back to the church with a heart full of joy and gratitude for all the blessings that God gives us without asking for anything in return. We want to share images of our beautiful time with God's people in the fields. May God Bless You all!



We are helping them with feeding families, including many households headed by only one parent. Many families have been abandoned by one of the spouses because of stress, alcoholism, illness and despair, and left to fend on their own. This is especially the case for a lot of women with small children.

If you can help by donating some of the items below, please leave items in the box in the sanctuary, take to the church office, or contact me for drop off. Your donations are making a difference in a life and in families of hard-working people. If you would like to make a financial donation, please be sure to earmark it for "Iglesia" when donating.

(Photos by Angie Salazar)

**Most Needed:**

Dry Beans – Rice – Maseca (corn flour) – All Purpose Flour – Small Pasta – Sugar – Salt – Coffee – Snacks (such as Cookies) – Bottled Juice – Feminine Products – Shampoo – Laundry Detergent – Dish Soap – Bleach and Cleaning Products – Baby Diapers (All sizes especially 5&6) – Formula (Enfamil Yellow)

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our friends at Iglesia.

– Linda Marzullo

## **Social Ministry Meets July 23 @ 5:30 pm**

Anyone who is interested in invited to attend our meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will be held **Friday, July 23, at 5:30 pm in the church.**

Agenda items include:

- Food Distribution / Food Pantry progress
- Brown Bag Breakfast Packing
- Produce Table update
- Blessing Box
- Assistance to Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz
- Day of Service plans

Everyone is invited to these planning meetings – we are all involved in being the hands and feet of Jesus to the world.

– Linda Marzullo

**Chairman, Social Ministry**

**688-5219, 688-3059 or [vikingpressprint@verizon.net](mailto:vikingpressprint@verizon.net)**

## **Events and Occasions**

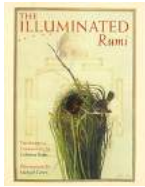
### **Theo Pub**

**Theology Pub will be gathering once again at Solvang Brew!** We'll be getting together at 7PM on Thursday, July 8. The summer months are "Open Topic" night, so bring your own questions or comments. And now that we're back at the brewery, bring your appetites! See you there!

### **Come Celebrate Miss Eileen**

After 30 years of incredible service, Eileen Knotts, our preschool director and church member is retiring to spend more time with and taking care of family. She has been a huge part of the heart and soul of the Bethania Preschool and After School program, growing it from 12 kids at the beginning to 140 kids every year in its current form. We invite everyone to come celebrate all she's done and wish her abundant joy and blessings as she begins this new chapter. So join us on July 18 at 11:30 AM for a lunch and party to celebrate Eileen. We won't make a big fuss because it's bittersweet for her, but make sure you give her all your love and blessings.





## Book Club

Bethania's Book Group will be continuing The Illuminated Rumi. We'll be discussing chapters 4-6. If you would like to join, we'll be meeting on Zoom on July 22<sup>th</sup> at 2PM and a link will be sent out.

## Church Business

### **Nyheder fra Bethania Rådet News from the Bethania Council June 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

To be more informative and transparent, your Church Council is continuing the new process of communicating news and publishing decisions we have made via the Beacon. Our goal, each month, is to announce major decisions taken by the council to help everyone stay abreast of issues facing the church. Questions, if any, about these discussions, decisions, or messages should be addressed to a council member preferably in writing.

From the June Council meeting, we would like to report on the following topics:

- Confirmed the hiring of Lola Gonzalez as the new Preschool and After School Care director, beginning June 28, 2021, and confirmed the hiring of Monica Dunn as a new teacher, and Susana Rondan and Linda Morales as new preschool aides.
- Confirmed the appointment of Bill Zigler as the Long Range Plan Chair
- Authorized getting bids to replace the drapes in the Sanctuary
- Voted to construct a prayer pergola in the courtyard (where the crossbeam is now in place for lighting) at a cost of approximately \$6,000. Funding will come from designated fund for property projects. The pergola would offer an outdoor space for people to come and pray or meditate. A box will be placed in the pergola for people to leave a prayer request.
- There is no firm date for transitioning from the food distribution to the food pantry.
- Pastor will resume the 11 AM Unorthodox Service beginning June 20.

If you have any questions or comments on any of these topics, please contact one of the Council members below:

Emily Abello (805) 688-1243	Jasmine Day day.jasmine@gmail.com	Lori McConnell (805) 331-7971
Wendy Bevier (805) 680-1521	Lynne Hemming (805) 698-9886	Ann Twigg (805) 350-1922
Josh Bratt (805) 245-0465	Carol Lake (805) 688-6797	Ron Walsh (805) 705-3736

**Bethania Lutheran Church**  
**Notes to Financial Statement**  
**May 2021 Financials**  
**June 15, 2021**

**BALANCE SHEET**

	<b>May 2021</b>	<b>Apr 2021</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Operating Acct	\$59,723	\$55,891	3832	
Money Mkt Acct	136,802	139,645	-2843	
Petty Cash Acct	100	100	0	
Fund Accounts	2,007,563	2,007,563	0	
Fixed Assets	1,853,041	1,853,041	0	
Total Assets	4,056,240	4,056,240	0	
Current Liabilities	385,028	385,028	0	
Equity	3,671,211	3,671,211	0	
Total Liab/Equity	4,057,229	4,056,240	989	

**PROFIT & LOSS ACTUAL VS BUDGET**

<b>April 2021</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Total Income	33,480	25,103		
Total Expenses	24,318	25,072		
Net Income	9126	30		

**Balance Sheet:**

- The cash position is still good with \$59,000+ in the checking account.

**Profit & Loss Budget Performance:**

**Income:**

- We were over budget for offerings this month by \$1000. We did use another \$5000 from endowment last month, as expected. Endowment is committed to helping over the summer and would like an update in September.

**Expenses:**

- Expenses are still well controlled. There was an expense this month of appx. \$1129 to repair the organ.
- Thanks to Ron's hard work, the PPP loan has been discharged and is no longer listed as a fund liability!

## In Our Hearts, In Our Prayers



Image by Hans Braxmeier from Pixabay

We uplift in prayer the following people in our congregation and community. May we minister to and bless all who need God's help.

### **For Comfort During Grief for...**

The family and loved ones of Torben Jensen, Kim Jensen's father. Torben died June 5, 2021

The family and loved ones of Dona Diacano who passed away June 8, 2021.

The family and loved ones of Marion Hallum. Marion passed away June 26, 2021.

Andy Blanton, Dennis Bornhoft, Kristyl Downey, Melissa Eck, Kerstin Emerson, Chris Frederiksen, Sheldon & Pat Green, Shannon Hazard, Belle Hoyer, Suzanne Hollrah, Jennifer Howell, Glen Jacobsen, Jeanne Labarge, Betsy & Steve Logan, Ariana Macias, John Marzullo, Stewart Mee, Brian Merrick, Denise Morris, Robert & Shelly Myers, Roger Myers, Eric and Mallory Oftebro, Barbara & Charles Osborn, Marie Ostertag, Kate Pearrson, Chèle Ludwig Petersen, Doyle Phillips, Robin Schatan, Judy Stamat, and those who serve our country both at home and abroad.

# The Beacon

## July 2021

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